

# News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

## MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER

**I**t has been a wonderful year for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and for me as your relatively new Grand Master!

*There is a new Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, Patriarch Fouad Twal, and his predecessor, Patriarch Michel Sabbah, is enjoying a much deserved rest – although he has been quite active in retirement.*

*Given recurring medical difficulties and the continuing challenge of commuting to Rome from Milan, Governor General Pier Luigi Parola has asked that his resignation be accepted. Engineer Parola has accomplished a great deal for the Order in achieving ever greater financial transparency and in guaranteeing increased assistance for the Latin Patriarchate, and all of us owe him a deep debt of gratitude and the promise of our prayers.*



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CARDINAL GRAND MASTER **I**

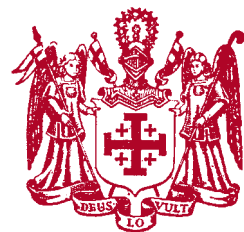
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GRAND MAGISTERIUM  
OF THE  
EQUESTRIAN ORDER  
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE  
OF JERUSALEM  
00120 VATICAN CITY



MESSAGE  
FROM THE CARDINAL  
GRAND MASTER

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*Our new Governor General is Count Agostino Borromeo, professor of history at the University of Rome (Sapienza) and at the Free University of Maria Assunta (LUMSA). Professor Borromeo previously served as Chancellor of the Order. All of us owe to Professor Borromeo our thanks for his having accepted this weighty challenge and our prayers for him, his family and the success of his work.”*

*The Order has a new Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, a canon of St. Peter’s Basilica and the former Apostolic Nuncio in Kuwait. Archbishop De Andrea, while Italian by birth, was a priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in the United States. His brother, Archbishop Giovanni De Andrea, also a former Apostolic Nuncio, is the Grand Prior for Lieutenancy of Central Italy and Sardinia.*

*The big news for the Order, however, was the quinquennial Consulta, held December 1 – 5 at Villa Aurelia in Rome. A total of 48 out of 52 Lieutenants in the Order took part in the Consulta, together with the almost all of the members of the Grand Magisterium. We were greatly honored by an audience with our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI on December 5 and by an address by the Holy See’s Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone on the same afternoon.*

*Earlier special presentations had been given by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, and Msgr. and Archimandrite Robert Stern, of the Catholic New East Welfare Association and Pontifical Mission for Palestine.*



MESSAGE  
FROM THE CARDINAL  
GRAND MASTER

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*Obviously, Patriarch Twal and I both had the opportunity to present our reflections, and Governor General Pier Luigi Parola provided an extensive report on the work and finances of the Order.*

*While I was able to take part in the first session of general discussion each day, I devoted the rest of the day to meeting with each of the Lieutenants in attendance, a very inspiring and encouraging experience for me.*

*As with all human organizations, other changes will be taking place – but the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre can be reassured that among the preoccupations of their leaders as expressed in the Consulta are the development of a deeper spiritual life among all the members to bring an already excellent group closer to the Lord whose native land they seek to serve and an ever more effective service of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, especially those who form the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.*

*More information will certainly be made available from the Consulta and from the texts of the addresses made there, but it was a truly historic occasion for the Order and I am grateful to Vice Governor Adolfo Rinaldi and to all of the preparatory team who did such a superb job in assuring a successful meeting and a promising future for our beloved Order.*

*In the hope that all of you have experienced a joyful Christmas with your loved ones, it is also my hope that all of us and our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land may enjoy a fruitful and peaceful New Year 2009! May God bless you!*

*John Cardinal Foley*



## THE 2008 CONSULTA

The 2008 Consulta took place from 1<sup>st</sup>– 5<sup>th</sup> December. Article 28 of the Order's Constitution makes provision for this kind of assembly, which must be held every five years. The meeting takes place under the leadership of the Cardinal Grand Master and includes the Patriarch-Grand Prior, the Assessor, the Members of the Grand Magisterium, the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates, as well as certain representatives: one from the Secretariat of State of the Vatican and one from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. This edition of the Newsletter reports on this year's Consulta. The outcome of the discussions will assist the Cardinal Grand Master with a series of decisions which will be made known in due course.



On 5<sup>th</sup> December the Holy Father granted participants in the Consulta an audience in the Vatican.

In the Sala Clementina he addressed them as follows:

ADDRESS OF THE  
HOLY FATHER BENEDICT XVI  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
EQUESTRIAN ORDER  
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE  
OF JERUSALEM

*Your Eminences,  
Venerable Brothers in the Episcopate,  
Members of the Grand Magisterium and Lieutenants,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*I am pleased to greet and give my cordial welcome to the Knights, to the Ladies and to the Ecclesiastics who represent the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In particular I greet Cardinal John Patrick Foley, Grand Master of the Order, and I thank him for the kind words that, also in the name of all of you, he has just addressed to me. I also greet the Grand Prior, His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Patriarch of Jerusalem for Latins. Through each one of you I wish, moreover, that the expression of my esteem and recognition arrives to all who comprise your worthy Sodality, spread in many parts of the world.*

*The reason you have gathered here in Rome is the "world consultation", which every five years provides for the meeting of the Lieutenants, the magisterial delegates and the members of the Grand Magisterium to evaluate the situation of the Catholic community in the Holy Land, the activity underway by the Order and to establish directives for the future. In thanking you for your visit I wish to manifest my lively appreciation especially for the initiatives of fraternal solidarity that the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for many years continues to promote in favour of the Holy Places.*



*Thus the "Honour Guard" came into being for the custody of the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord. Your Equestrian Order has enjoyed a singular attention on the part of the Roman Pontiffs, who have given it the spiritual and juridical instruments necessary to fulfil your own specific service. Bl. Pius IX in 1847 re-established it to favour the recomposition of a Catholic faith community in the Holy Land, no longer entrusting the custody on Christ's Tomb to the force of arms, but to the authority of a constant witness of faith and charity toward Christians resident in those lands. More recently, the Servant of God Pius XII, of happy memory, conferred to your Sodality juridical personhood, thus making its presence and work, within the Church and in regard to nations, more official and solid.*

*Dear brothers and sisters, an ancient and glorious bond links your knightly Sodality to the Holy Sepulchre of Christ, where in a completely singular way the glory of his death and Resurrection is celebrated. Precisely this constitutes the pivotal centre of your spirituality. Jesus Christ crucified and Risen is therefore the centre of your existence and of your every project and programme, personal or collective. Let yourselves be guided and sustained by his redeeming power to live deeply the mission that you are called to carry out, to offer an eloquent Gospel witness, to be builders, in our time, of a solid hope founded on the Risen Lord's presence, who, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, guides and sustains the efforts of those who dedicate themselves to the edification of a new humanity inspired by the Gospel values of justice, love and peace.*

*What need the Land of Jesus has for justice and peace! Continue to work for this and do not tire in asking, with the Prayer of the Knights and the Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, that as soon as possible these aspirations may come to completion. Ask the Lord to make you "convinced and sincere ambassadors of peace and love among your brethren", ask him to make fruitful, with the power of his love, your constant work to support the ardent desire for peace in those communities weighed down by a climate of uncertainty and danger in the last years. To that dear Christian population, who continue to suffer due to the political, economic and social crisis in the Middle East, made even worse with the escalating world situation, I address an affectionate thought, bearing a special testimony of my spiritual closeness to so many of our brothers in the faith who are forced to emigrate. How can one fail to share the sorrow of that sorely tried community? How can one not thank, at the same time, you who have worked so generously to come to their aid?*



*In these days of Advent, while we prepare for the Christmas festivities, the gaze of our faith is directed toward Bethlehem, where the Son of God is born in a poor grotto. Next the heart's eye is directed to all the other places sanctified by our Redeemer's passing. We ask Mary, who has given the world the Saviour, to make her maternal protection felt by our brothers and sisters who live there and who daily face many difficulties. We also ask her to encourage you and those, who with God's help, want to and can contribute to build of a world of justice and peace.*

*Dear Knights and dear Ladies, nurture within yourselves the atmosphere of Advent, keeping your hearts alert in waiting for the Lord who comes, so that you can encounter him in the events of each day and recognize and serve him especially in the poor and suffering. May the Virgin of Nazareth, who in a few days time we will invoke with the title of the Immaculate Conception, assist you in your mission of watching over with love upon the places that saw the Divine Redeemer pass "doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10: 38).*

*With these sentiments I gladly impart to all my Blessing.*

## THE 2008 CONSULTA

68 people attended the Consulta. Some – 36 in all – were accompanied by their spouses. As well as the Cardinal Grand Master of the Order, Cardinals Leonardo Sandri and Jean-Louis Tauran were also present on the first day, with messages or addresses for the meeting. Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi also presented his thoughts on the subject of the Order's spirituality. The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of our Order, gave an overview of the current issues concerning the Patriarchate. The high point of the Consulta was an audience with the Holy Father in the Sala Clementina for all the participants.

Several Lieutenants had only recently been appointed. The Consulta provided an opportunity for them to make contact with and get to know other Members of the Order, and vice versa; and, after a gap of many long years, a lady once again took part in the Consulta: Dame Mary O'Brien, who attended as Lieutenant of USA North Western.

The working groups were organised according to language and the Consulta documents kept their members very busy. The moderators presented the findings of the respective groups at the end of each working day.

Three important broad themes were under discussion:

1. Spirituality,
2. Aid to the Holy Land, and
3. Finance and Organisation.

The experiences of the long-standing Lieutenants and the interests of the newcomers led to intensive debate. It was clear that, for the most part, general opinion echoed the overall scope of the Order. As the days went by, there was a growing feeling that everyone agreed that the Order's work should be supported and new initiatives begun and that they would transmit their own enthusiasm to the Members of their Lieutenancies.





*Interview with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem FOUAD TWAL:*

**“THE WORK OF THE  
LATIN PATRIARCHATE IS  
TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH,  
IN FAITH AND NUMBERS,  
OF THE CHURCH”**

**Newsletter:** *Immediately you took up your duties as Patriarch you stated that your priests were particularly dear to your heart and that you wanted to intensify your visits to parish priests. What is your view of your clergy now?*

**Patriarch Fouad Twal:** I am thankful that, even in the face of huge challenges, our local clergy and laity have become mature and competent in their work and they have learned to take confident roles of leadership in the community.

**Newsletter:** *How do you see the work of the Patriarchate in the current situation?*

**Patriarch Fouad Twal:** The work of the Latin Patriarchate, in one sentence, is to encourage the growth, in faith and numbers, of the Church. Whereas among our very chief concerns is the emigration of Christians from the Holy Land, yet our desire, in the first place, is not only to try and eliminate the difficulties that push them to leave, for we do not have power over many situations. Rather, it is to help them receive and live out their mission of faith, strengthened by the solidarity that they experience through your support. If this mission becomes adopted then the question of emigration recedes, for the sacrifices become simply a condition for communicating Christ and living out our vocation in the Holy Land.

**Newsletter:** *In the Order, the question always arises as to how the Patriarchate and the Christians in the Holy Land see our Order and our Members. Which is more important: the fact that we are the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem or simply our material aid?*

**Patriarch Fouad Twal:** Let me say, only those who actually love the Holy Land and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem have the right and the moral obligation to belong to the Order. And this is because someone who does not love the Holy Land is not really in a position to be of service to this Land.

**News Letter:** *Today, even the Church finds herself almost obliged to act as a manager deciding priorities. What are your most important concerns or preoccupations?*

**Patriarch Fouad Twal:** The first issue that I would like to draw to your attention is the Institutional Fund, through which the Latin Patriarchate must cover all the basic expenses related to the everyday institutional needs. This fund is dedicated to the maintenance of our diocese in the three States: Palestine, Israel, and Jordan. The second fundamental issue is the Patriarchate's work of Education that is carried out through our schools. Our schools continue to be a crucial expression of the mission of the Church.



The schools are among our principal means for helping our families form faithful and capable new generations, proud of their faith and their heritage. We educate them to be capable of contributing to the creation of a society where all people, including minorities, can participate in building up the common good. We give young Muslim and Christian students a chance to work and grow together in a way that guides them to trusting relationships that can open up unexpected paths in the future.

My third concern is the seminary, the heart of the Patriarchate, the source of our priests and the future of our Diocese in the Holy Land. Our Seminary is receiving many vocations, especially from Jordan, but unfortunately we are forced to postpone some, due to the shortage of space. The other unfortunate fact about the Seminary is the running costs, which are constantly increasing and therefore every year we find ourselves trapped in deficit.

Another aspect which is directly related to our commitment to sustaining the mission of the faithful is the Humanitarian Aid which enhances the social and familial life of the Church.

Since the second uprising, the need for Humanitarian Aid has increased. Just with your help in this field alone, thousands of Christian families have found relief and their lives have been eased. Still, the demand is always increasing.

*Newsletter:* *Apart from your everyday concerns such as how to pay the clergy or the need for humanitarian aid, which are very often affected by sudden changes in circumstances, what is your view of the future in general?*

**Patriarch Fouad Twal:** We have elaborated a 4-year plan for our schools, aiming at enhancing our role as educators in the three areas of Jordan, Palestine and Israel. Our first and foremost priority is to upgrade and refurbish the school buildings. This is a critical need for Jordan where we own and operate 22 schools. Our work in Jordan for the coming 4 years will include upgrading and reconstruction of plant, renovation of school buildings, upgrading of libraries, laboratories and furniture, as well as the installation of new external facilities, such as playgrounds and multipurpose auditoriums.

*Newsletter:* *Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.*



## OPINIONS ON THE CONSULTA

*To conclude this Newsletter, here are a few personal impressions from four of the Consulta's participants.*

**H.E. Mary C. O'Brien,**

*Lieutenant of USA North Western:*

As the newest Lieutenant for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the 2008 Consulta was an early Christmas present. The five days (December 1-5) in Rome were a time of sharing ideas with other Lieutenants, being educated by the Latin Patriarch, Fouad Twal, on the issues and importance of our assistance in the Holy Land, and a spiritual component of daily Mass and friendship. The Consulta dealt with the significant issues in a very organized manner. I also felt welcomed and affirmed by my fellow Lieutenants and their spouses. Thank you Cardinal Foley and the Grand Magisterium for this WONDERFUL gift!

**H.E. Lauri Gorski,**

*Finnish Lieutenant:*

The Consulta was an inspiring event of remarkable and stimulating presentations and friendly thought-provoking discussions. It showed that our Order has become a truly global organisation which increases courage, brings justice, and creates hope for the Christians of the Holy Land. The one-to-one discussions with the Cardinal Grand Master, the Governor General, the members of the Grand Magisterium and other Lieutenants gave me the possibility to get valuable views on how to address the specific issues facing my own Lieutenancy.

**H.E. Carl Falck,**

*Swedish Lieutenant:*

During the autumn, we prepared the Consulta in the Swedish Lieutenancy by discussing the topics for the coming five years. As Lieutenant of a small Lieutenancy in a secularised country, with only a small number of Catholics, I wanted especially to put forward to the Consulta the situation of working in such an environment. My experience was that the Consulta was very open for a discussion concerning this issue.

For me, a very important part of the Consulta was the contacts and the discussions with the other Lieutenants. As a new Lieutenant I have learned a lot from these discussions. It is now my intention to put forward the "spirit" of the Consulta to my Lieutenancy in Sweden and to implement the conclusions in the practical work of the Lieutenancy.

The Consulta meant five days of hard work, but for me, also a lot of joy, together with my colleagues in the other Lieutenancies.

**Otto Kaspar,**

*Member of the Grand Magisterium:*

In addition to the quality of the group work, I was especially moved by the final evening. Following the dinner, (almost) everyone took their leave with such sincerity, with so much fellow-feeling in their hearts and amid such an atmosphere of mutual goodwill that those few minutes were far more than the usual "goodbyes" at the end of a day's meeting. "I hope to see you again soon" was no mere formality. It was obvious that the words were meant as wholeheartedly as they were spoken. This is the spirit on which the Order can build.

